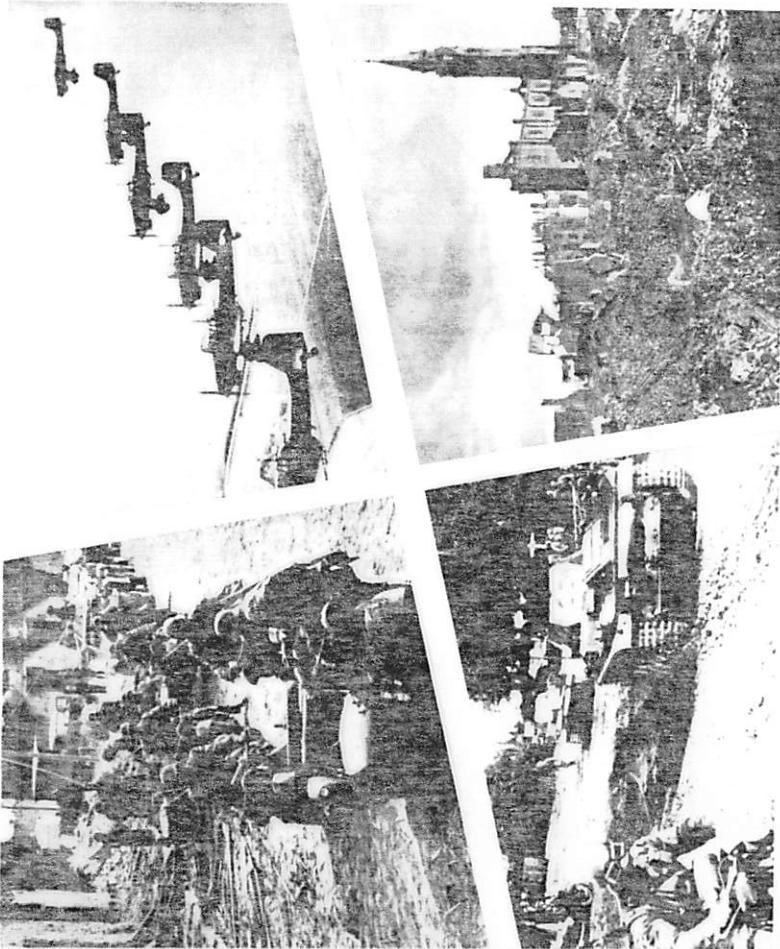


WORLD WAR II



War Began on Sept. 1, 1939, when German aircraft, tanks, and motorized troops attacked Poland. Many Polish cities soon lay devastated. By early 1942, all major countries of the world were involved in the most destructive war in history.

United Press Int.; Wide World

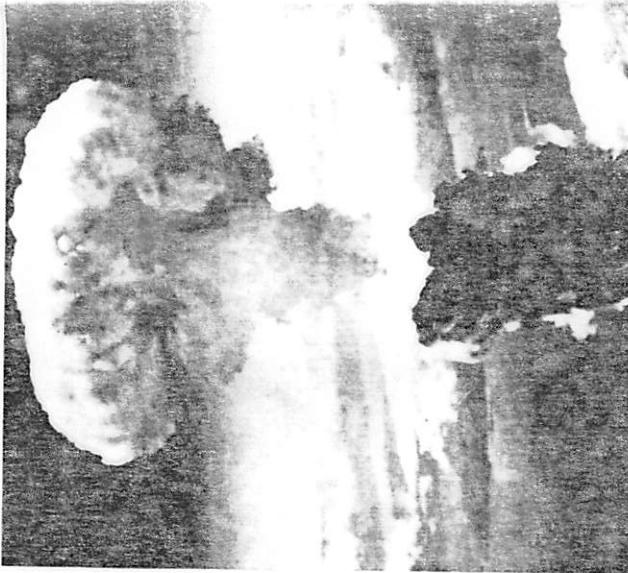
WORLD WAR II killed more persons, cost more money, damaged more property, affected more people, and probably caused more far-reaching changes than any other war in history. It opened the atomic age, and brought sweeping changes in warfare. Trucks sped infantrymen to the battle front after aerial bombing, giant tanks, and pinpoint artillery had "softened" the enemy. Bombers and ballistic missiles rained death and destruction on soldiers, sailors, and civilians alike. Airplanes, warships, and ground forces worked together with split-second timing in amphibious attacks. Paratroops dropped from airplanes or landed in gliders.

The number of people killed, wounded, or missing between September, 1939, and September, 1945, can never be calculated. More than 10 million Allied servicemen and nearly 6 million military men from the Axis countries died in the war. World War II cost more than \$1,150,000,000,000. More than 50 countries took part in the war, and the whole world felt its effects.

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out Great Britain by bombing and submarine blockades. In 1941, Hitler's armies conquered Yugoslavia and Greece—which Italy had attacked after entering the war against France in 1940—and then marched into Russia. Japan's plans for expansion in the Far East led it to



Theodor Ropp, the contributor of this article, is Professor of History at Duke University and author of War in the Modern World. The article was reviewed by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and General Carl Spaatz.

War Ended on Sept. 2, 1945, less than a month after the Allies dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.



WORLD BOOK map

In World War II, about 50 Allied nations joined forces against Germany, Japan, and the other Axis powers. Few countries remained neutral. The map shows a colony or dependency in the same color as the country governing it.

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The Allies called the conflict *a war for survival*. Even before the guns were stilled, new threats to world peace arose. Russia sought to impose Communist dictatorships and stir up revolutions throughout the world. The atomic bomb and the ballistic missile served notice that any future world war would be even more destructive than World War II.

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Problems Left by World War I

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WAR IN EUROPE AND AFRICA

1939

Sept. 1 German troops invaded Poland.
 Sept. 3 Britain and France declared war on Germany.
 Nov. 30 Russian troops invaded Finland.

1940

Apr. 9 Germany attacked Denmark and Norway.
 May 10 Germany invaded Belgium, Luxembourg, and The Netherlands.
 June 10 Italy declared war on Britain and France.
 June 22 France surrendered to Germany.
 Aug. 4 Italy invaded British Somaliland.
 Oct. 28 Italy attacked Greece.
 Nov. 20 Hungary joined the Axis.
 Nov. 23 Romania joined the Axis.

1941

Jan. 15 British soldiers invaded Ethiopia.
 Mar. 1 Bulgaria joined the Axis.
 Apr. 6 Germany invaded Greece and Yugoslavia.
 June 22 Axis forces invaded Russia.
 July 7 United States troops landed in Iceland.
 Aug. 14 The Atlantic Charter was announced.
 Dec. 11 Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. The United States declared war on Germany and Italy.

1942

June 5 The United States declared war on Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania.
 June 21 German troops seized Tobruk in North Africa.
 July 2 The British halted the Germans at El Alamein.
 Sept. 16 German forces entered Stalingrad (now Volgograd) in Russia.
 Oct. 23 The British began an offensive at El Alamein.
 Nov. 7-8 Allied forces landed in North Africa.
 Nov. 11 French resistance in North Africa ended.
 Nov. 12 British troops captured Tobruk.
 Nov. 19 The Russians counterattacked at Stalingrad.
 Nov. 27 The French scuttled their fleet at Toulon.

1943

Jan. 31 Field Marshal Friedrich von Paulus surrendered to the Russians.
 May 7 Tunis and Bizerte fell to the Allies.
 May 12 Organized Axis resistance in Africa ended.
 July 10 Allied forces invaded Sicily.
 Sept. 3 The Allies landed in Italy.
 Sept. 3 Italy signed a secret armistice with the Allies.
 Oct. 13 Italy declared war on Germany.
 Nov. 6 The Russians recaptured Kiev.

1944

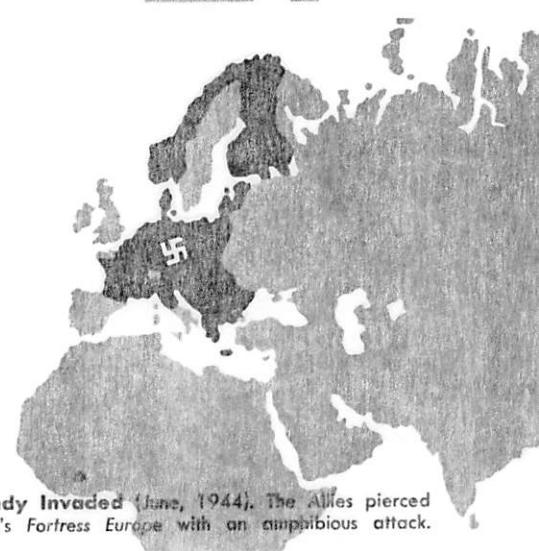
Jan. 27 The Russians broke the siege of Leningrad.
 Mar. 19 German troops swept into Hungary.
 June 6 The Allies landed in Normandy, France.
 June 13 The first V-1 guided missile fell on London.
 July 25 United States forces broke out of Normandy.
 Aug. 15 Allied troops landed in southern France.
 Aug. 25 Romania declared war on Germany.
 Sept. 9 Bulgaria declared war on Germany.
 Sept. 10 Finland signed an armistice with Russia.
 Dec. 16 The Germans began the Battle of the Bulge.
 Dec. 27 The Allies halted the German offensive.

1945

Jan. 11 Russian soldiers entered Warsaw, Poland.
 Jan. 21 Hungary declared war on Germany.
 Feb. 13 Russian forces occupied Budapest.
 Apr. 13 Vienna fell to invading Russian troops.
 Apr. 22 The Russians reached the suburbs of Berlin.
 Apr. 25 U.S. and Russian forces met at Torgau.
 May 2 German troops in Italy surrendered.
 May 2 Berlin surrendered to Russian troops.
 May 7 Germany surrendered to the Allies.
 July 26 The Allies issued the Potsdam Declaration.



Axis Empire at Its Height (November, 1942) extended from Norway to North Africa and France to western Russia.



Normandy Invaded (June, 1944). The Allies pierced Germany's Fortress Europe with an amphibious attack.



Surrender of Germany (May, 1945) ended fighting in Europe. The Allies then freed German-held Norway.

In August, Germany and Russia had agreed secretly to divide Poland. On September 17, with the Polish armies ready to collapse, Russian armies invaded eastern Poland. Most Polish resistance ended within three days.

French could not give direct help to the Poles. In January 1939, Poland crushed. The German army and Russia had agreed secretly to divide Poland. In the first two years of war, In

July 1939, Hitler had the advantage of the Axis won a series of major conquests during the first two years of war. In Bulgaria, The Germans tried to bomb Britain into sur-

gained before the Axis war machine. Germany

Greece fell before the Axis war machine. The Negev

lands, Poland, Denmark, Luxembourg, France, and Russia.

Belgium, Norway, France, Yugoslavia, and Greece fell before the Axis war machine. The Negev

lands, Poland, Denmark, Luxembourg, France, and Russia.

Early Stages of the War

Allies mobilized about 62,000,000 men and women.

From the time Germany attacked Poland until Japan

surprised six years later, the Axis mobilized about

Allied vessels carrying troops and war materials.

In addition, Germany submarine seriously threatened

efforts to the North Sea and the nearby Atlantic.

Wide areas of the world, and Germany could restrict its

use of the German. But the Allies also had to patrol

wide areas of the world, with about 5000 ships to every

one of the German. The Allies had to patrol

wide areas of the world, with about 12,000 military air-

craft, compared to about 8000 for the Allies. The Allies

had larger navies, with about 15000 ships to every

one of the German. Germany had about 12,000 military air-

crafts, and heavy artillery. China Britain, France, and

Poland had greater reserves of manpower. But their

armies were not so well trained and equipped as those of

the German, and heavy artillery. China Britain, France, and

Poland had a well-balanced *wehrmacht*, or armed force,

of 106 combat divisions, with powerful tanks, motorized

war production, and adopt strategic plans.

After the armistice, transited factories and planes for

Allies, after war broke out, had to draft and train men

for the armistice, transited factories and planes for

the Allies, and the Allies planned to seize

of 106 combat divisions, with powerful tanks, motorized

war production, and adopt strategic plans.

Mobilization

When war began in 1939, Germany had the advan-

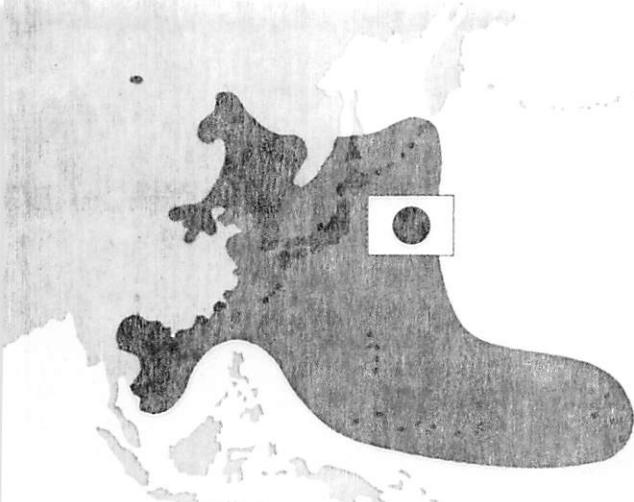
tage of being substantially mobilized. It had already

organized its industrial plants for wartime needs. The

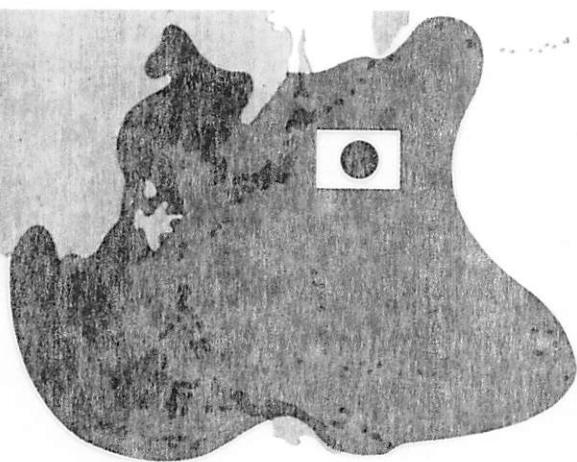
war, Allied nations would crush Germany against the

wide world, United Press Int.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WAR IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Pearl Harbor Attacked (December, 1941). Japan's conquests included Indochina, Manchuria, and parts of China.



Japan's Empire at Its Height (August, 1942) stretched from the Netherlands East Indies to parts of the Aleutians.



Surrender (August, 1945). When Japan surrendered, ending World War II, it still occupied parts of eastern Asia.

1931

Sept. 18 Japan invaded Manchuria in North China.

1937

July 7 Japan invaded China.

1940

Sept. 22 Japan pushed into French Indochina.

1941

Apr. 13 Japan and Russia signed a non-aggression pact.

June 8 British and French troops invaded Syria.

Aug. 25 Russian and British forces invaded Iran.

Dec. 7 The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

Dec. 8 The United States declared war on Japan.

Dec. 9 China declared war on Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Dec. 10 Guam surrendered to the Japanese.

Dec. 23 Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.

Dec. 25 British troops at Hong Kong surrendered.

1942

Jan. 2 Manila fell to invading Japanese forces.

Jan. 11 The Japanese landed in the Netherlands East Indies.

Feb. 1 U.S. ships raided the Marshalls and Gilberts.

Feb. 15 Singapore surrendered to the Japanese.

Feb. 27 The Allies lost the Battle of Java Sea.

Mar. 7 The Japanese occupied the Netherlands East Indies.

April 9 Bataan surrendered to the Japanese.

Apr. 18 U.S. carrier-based aircraft bombed Tokyo.

May 4-8 The Allies won the Battle of the Coral Sea.

May 6 The Japanese occupied Corregidor.

June 4-6 The Battle of Midway ended Japan's expansion eastward.

Aug. 7 U.S. marines landed on Guadalcanal.

1943

Mar. 2-5 The Allies defeated a Japanese naval force in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea.

Mar. 13 Japanese troops retreated across the Yangtze.

May 30 Organized Japanese resistance on Attu ended.

Oct. 2 Allied forces captured Finschhafen.

Nov. 1 U.S. troops landed on Bougainville Island.

Nov. 20 U.S. marines invaded Tarawa and Makin.

Nov. 22 The Allies conferred at Cairo in Egypt.

1944

Jan. 31 U.S. troops attacked Kwajalein atoll.

Feb. 17 U.S. naval forces raided Truk Island.

Feb. 29 Allied soldiers landed in the Admiralties.

Mar. 22 Japanese troops crossed the border of India.

Apr. 22 Allied forces landed at Hollandia.

June 15 U.S. marines invaded Saipan Island.

June 15 B-29 Superfortresses raided Japan.

June 19-20 U.S. forces won the Battle of the Philippine Sea.

July 21 U.S. troops landed on Guam Island.

Sept. 15 U.S. marines invaded Peleliu Island.

Oct. 20 U.S. Army forces landed on Leyte.

Oct. 23-26 The U.S. Pacific Fleet crushed the Japanese fleet in the Battle for Leyte Gulf.

1945

Jan. 9 Allied troops invaded Luzon, Philippines.

Jan. 22 The Allies reopened a land route to China.

Feb. 19 U.S. marines stormed Iwo Jima Island.

Apr. 1 U.S. troops landed on Okinawa Island.

Aug. 6 U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Aug. 9 U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

Aug. 10 Japan opened peace negotiations.

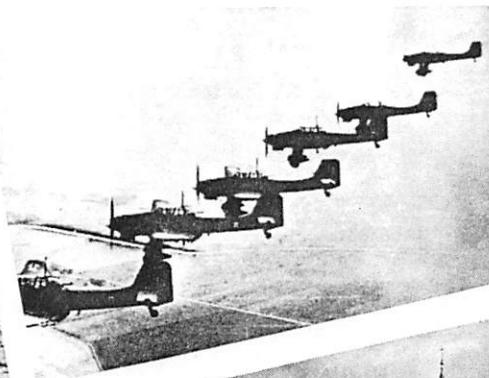
Aug. 14 Japan accepted the Allied surrender terms.

Sept. 2 Japan signed the terms of surrender.

Sept. 8 Japanese forces in China surrendered.

Sept. 12 Japanese troops in Southeast Asia surrendered.

WORLD WAR II



United Press Int.; Wide World

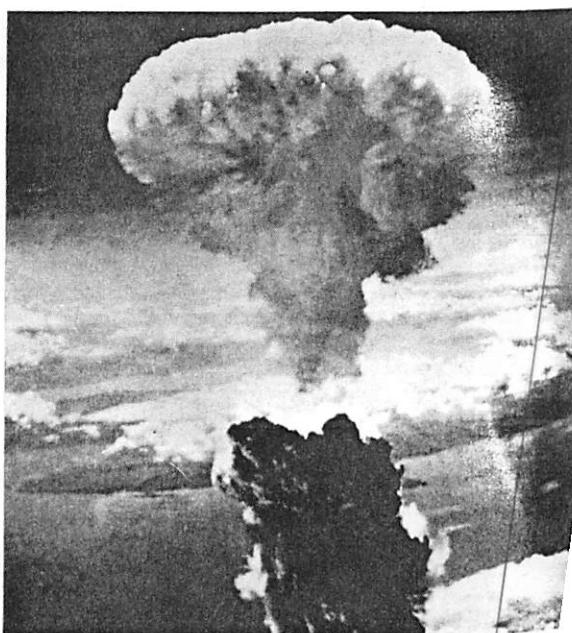
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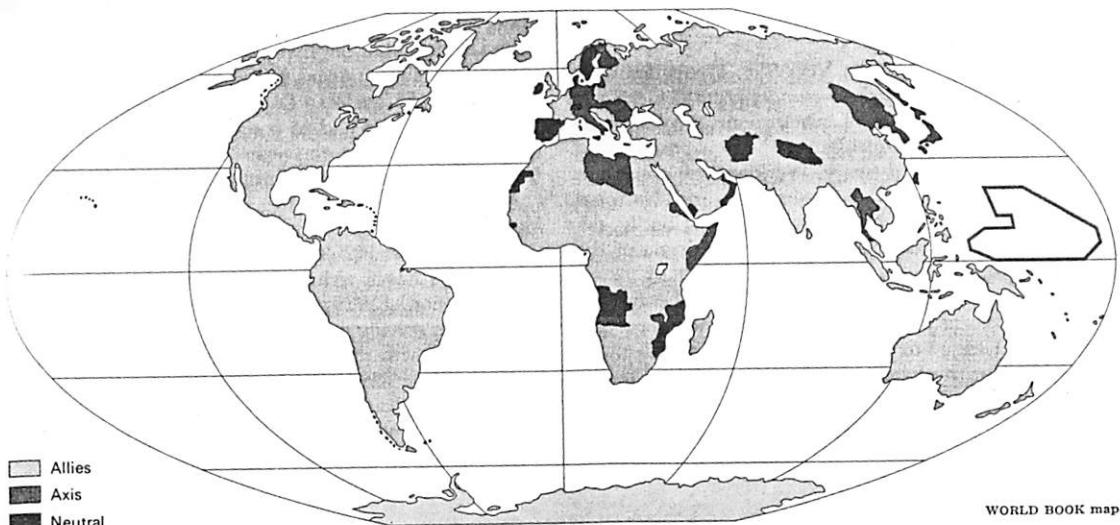
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U.S. Air Force

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EUROPEAN THEATER

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Battle of the Atlantic Sept., 1939-May, 1945

Events marked on the map:

- North Sea:** Denmark (Apr. 9, 1940), Denmark (Jan. 21-27, 1944).
- Great Britain:** V-Weapons Attacks (June 13, 1944-Mar. 21, 1945), Battle of Britain (July 10, 1940-Oct. 1940).
- Germany:** The Netherlands (May 10-15, 1940), Belgium (May 10-28, 1940), Luxembourg (May 10, 1940), France (June 5-22, 1940), Southern France Invaded (Aug. 15, 1944), Italy (Sept. 3, 1943-May 2, 1945), Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia (Apr. 6-18, 1941), Poland (Sept. 1-28, 1939), Warsaw (Jan. 11, 1945), Berlin (Apr. 22-May 2, 1945), Danzig.
- Poland:** Poland (Sept. 1-28, 1939), Warsaw (Jan. 11, 1945).
- Russia:** Russia Invaded (June 22, 1941), Stalingrad (Nov. 19, 1942-Jan. 31, 1943), Moscow.
- Other:** Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece (Oct. 28, 1940-Apr. 27, 1941), Turkey, Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia.
- Key Dates:** Normandy Invaded (June 6, 1944), Surrender at Reims (May 7, 1945), El Alamein (Oct. 23-Nov. 3, 1942), Tobruk (June 18-21, 1942), Sicily (July 10-Aug. 17, 1943), North Africa (Nov. 7-8, 1942-May 12, 1943), Sevastopol (Nov. 1, 1941-July 1, 1942).

THE WAR AGAINST GERMANY AND ITALY



Axis Victory



Allied Victory

---) Extent of battle lines